Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SCUL, MX

SUBJECT: BILATERAL CULTURAL AGREEMENT AND TOUR OF BOSTON

YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

REF: MEXICO 781

- 1. WHILE DEPARTMENT PREPARED TO MAKE REASONABLE GESTURES TO FACILITATE VISIT OF BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY TO MEXICO, DIRECT LINKAGE TO CULTURAL AGREEMENT IN TERMS OF SPONSORSHIP IS NOT POSSIBLE. DEPARTMENT OBVIOUSLY NOT ABLE TO SPONSOR WIDE RANGE OF PRIVATE CULTURAL EXCHANGE WHICH NOW TAKES PLACE, AND TO EXTENT SPONSORSHIP IMPLIES RESPONSIBILITY, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO DO SO. SPECIFIC PROBLEM FOR CU INVOLVES ENDORSEMENT OF PERFORMING GROUPS BELOW COLLEGE LEVEL. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PROVIDE FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIP, PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION, OR ENDORSEMENT OF SUCH GROUPS, DESPITE LARGE VOLUME OF REQUESTS, INCLUDING FROM BOSTON YOUTH SYMPHONY (BYS). PROPOSE FOLLOWING APPROACH TO DIVORCE ISSUE OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT FROM VISIT OF BYS. AND FROM "ENDORSEMENT" OF BYS.
- 2. EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO INFORM FONOFF BY NOTE THAT USG INFORMED OF PLANS OF BYS TO VISIT MEXICO, AND IS PLEASED TO ENDORSE THIS INITIATIVE AS CONSISTENT WITH OBJECTIVES OF BOTH COUNTRIES AS SET FORTH IN BILATERAL CULTURAL AGREELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT. (THIS WRITTEN ENDORSEMENT MUST NOT ATTRIBUTE TO

EMBASSY FORMAL SPONSORSHIP OF PERFORMANCE OR OF PERFORMING GROUP ITSELF.)

- 3. IF IT IS NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH NEXT MEETING OF CULTURAL COMMISSION IN RESOLVING THIS MATTER, YOU MAY STATE THAT DEPARTMENT NOW UNDERTAKING TO IDENTIFY FEASIBLE TIMES AND SUBJECT MATTER FOR CONFERENCE, AND WILL SHORTLY COMMUNICATE WITH FONOFF TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE AGENDA. DEPARTMENT NOT PREPARED TO MAKE FLAT COMMITMENT ON TIMING OF MEETING, BUT YOU MAY ASSURE GOM THAT USG PLANNING TO HOLD IT, POSSIBLY THIS FISCAL YEAR.
- 4. WITH REGARD TO RECIPROCITY ASPECT OF PERFORMANCE, WHILE WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID THIS ISSUE, IT MAY BE WORTH NOTING IN PASSING THAT USG SPONSORSHIP OF MURRAY LOUIS DANCE COMPANY FOR CERVANTES FESTIVAL IN MAY 1975 IS VIEWED AS IN FURTHERANCE OF OUR UNDERSTANDING AT MEETING OF CULTURAL COMMISSION. KISSINGER

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